

This shouldn't come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve?

In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of the Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, one further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism that handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Geritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of nine local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication to seeing that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as is true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and to thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on this board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upward of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform their Representative of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In mid-December, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

Last year, the board interviewed 32 applicants. Nominations included 10 to the Naval Academy, 17 to the Military Academy, 4 to the Air Force Academy, and 1 to the Merchant Marine Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the congressional nomination process. The Board then forwards their recommendations to the academies by January 31, where recruiters review files and notify applicants and my office of their final decisions on admission.

It is both reassuring and rewarding to know that many of our military officers hail from our hometowns or close by. When we consider the role of these officers in peace or war, we can rest easier knowing that the best and brightest are in command. Wherever they are sent, be that Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, or Vietnam, many of these officers have academy training.

And while a few people may question the motivations and ambitions of some young people, the academy review process shows that the large majority of our graduates are just as highly motivated as the generation before them. They still seek guidance from loving parents, dedicated teachers and schools, and from trusted clergy and rabbis. Indeed, every time I visit a school, speak at a college, or meet a young academy nominee, I am constantly reminded that we as a nation are blessed with fine young men and women.

Their willingness and desire to serve their country is perhaps the most persuasive evidence of all.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 1996—11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Name	Hometown	High School	Academy
Evren Asral	Rockaway	Morris Hills	Military.
Brian Bergen	W. Caldwell	James Caldwell	Military.
Benjamin Blake	Chatham	Chatham	Naval.
Garrett	Randolph	Randolph	Military.
Brougham.			
Ryan Carr	Succasunna	Roxbury	Naval.
Matthew	Succasunna	Roxbury	Military.
DelPreore.			
Charles Emering, Jr.	Butler	Butler	Air Force.
Katherine Falato	Basking Ridge ..	Ridge	Military.
Geoffrey Frick	Lincoln Park	DePaul	Naval.
Kyle Grzymko	Andover	Lenape Valley Regional.	Military.
Michael Henke ...	Parsippany	Parsippany	Military.
Morgan Hock	Morristown	Madison	Military.
Janet Howson	Madison	Morris Catholic	Military.
Roger Knight IV	Pompton Plains ..	Valley Forge	Military.
Charles Larsen ...	Hopatcong	Hopatcong	Military.
Adam Lusardi	Rockaway	Morris Hills	Military.
Newman Merton	Budd Lake	St. John's Mill	Military.
Christopher Moen	Pompton Plains ..	DePaul	Air Force.
Edmund Mooney	Kinnelon	Kinnelon	Naval.
Patrick Nelson ...	Hackettstown	Bridgeton Acad	Naval.
Todd Osborne	Morris Plains	Morristown	Naval.
Mary Paczkowski	Long Valley	West Morris Central.	Naval.
Daniel Powell	Califon	West Morris Central.	Naval.
Nicholas Rafanello.	Whippany	Morris Catholic	Military.
Thomas Rogers ...	Rockaway	Morris Knolls	Air Force.
James Schiess	Flanders	Mt. Olive	Air Force.
Thomas Tanis	Oak Ridge	Jefferson	Military.
Andrew Telschow	Succasunna	Roxbury	Merchant Marine.
Scott Trageser ...	Sparta	Sparta	Naval.
Christopher Wilkens.	Stanhope	Hopatcong	Military.
Jacob Williams ...	Basking Ridge ..	Delbarton School ..	Naval.
James Zhou	Livingston	Livingston	Military.

TED NUGENT: TALENTED, COMMITTED, PRINCIPLED

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the power of talent, coupled with impeccable standards of decency, energized by commitment to principle, emblazoned by actions to put feelings into fact, is the best way I can summarize the career of a man who has brought millions to their feet with a piercing beat that just won't let you stand still. That man is Ted Nugent.

Over his career, many have known him for the 28 albums he has produced, with over 30 million of them sold worldwide. His concerts—and he has had nearly 1,000 since 1990—continue to set sales records. His professional success has enabled him to do what he cares most about—provide support for young people through his involvement in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education [DARE], program and the Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids, where boys and girls learn about proper respect for wildlife, conservation, and hunting, as well as respect for one another. He also has consistently promoted his alcohol and drug-free lifestyle as a model for all young people, and has recently donated his time and talents to a statewide safety campaign, urging drivers to “buckle up and live.”

Ted has pursued his devotion for the right of people to hunt through his award winning Ted Nugent Spirit of the Wild PBS video series, his never-ending media interviews on the subject, and his writings in Adventure Outdoors magazine.

For all of his efforts, Ted Nugent has received recognition that he truly deserves. He has received numerous commendations from State police, sheriff departments, the FBI, and other police agencies. In fact, he has been a Michigan County sheriff deputy since 1988. He has been named Man of the Year by the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association. He is a member of the Hundgun Hunters Hall of Fame. He has been inducted into the Native-American Strongheart Society by the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho Tribes. He has served as the keynote speaker at numerous events including the Governor's Symposium on North American Hunting Heritage in Wisconsin, and the Native-American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference in Anchorage, AK. He has served on numerous organizations within Michigan, such as the Michigan Year of the Family Council, the Hunting and Fishing Heritage Task Force, and the Michigan State Parks Foundation, and has been named Archery Commissioner for the Great Lakes State.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone ever asks you what Ted Nugent wants, tell them he wants kids to grow up strong. He's wants hunting and conservation to be recognized for the reasonable and responsible activities that they are. He wants people to keep their constitutional rights. He wants to preserve a way of life that is the best in the world. I urge all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Ted Nugent for all that he does to make America a better place.